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ABSTRACT

In this book, the Consortium for Community College Development's Think Tank (Michigan) identifies four critical and enduring issues for change in community colleges: (1) attracting and recruiting students in an increasingly competitive market; (2) improving student success through innovative approaches to teaching and learning; (3) encouraging faculty and staff to think about new ways of delivering programs and services; and (4) locating resources to support and update technology. The Think Tank advocates thinking outside the box when approaching change. It also identifies three universal themes: (1) technology; (2) accountability; and (3) competition. Technology is a primary driver of change, and all colleges are struggling to conceptualize and capitalize on technology's potential. Colleges are increasingly being asked to provide measurable evidence of effectiveness; accountability demands are a significant catalyst for institutional change. The Think Tank argues that community colleges must ask what distinctive forms of value will they deliver in order to gain a competitive edge. The paper stresses the importance of thinking in terms of life-long learning as well as the need for multi-faceted learning in light of the diversity of today's students, as well as encouraging and fostering learning communities that can move the institution and individual learners beyond the limits of current capacity. (NB)

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